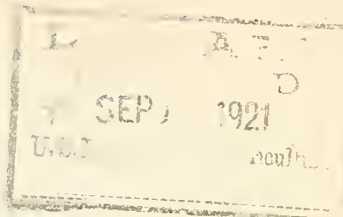


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY



DIRECTIONS FOR TRAPPING RATS WITH GUILLOTINE AND CAGE TRAPS.

Rats are often very cunning. It is often difficult to clear them from premises by trapping; if food is abundant, it is nearly impossible. Under favorable conditions, where rat-proofing has made access difficult and the food supply has been cut off, trapping, if persistently followed, is one of the most effective means of rat control. A common mistake in trapping for rats is to use only one or two traps where dozens are required. For large establishments, such as warehouses, office buildings, and apartment houses, from 20 to several hundred traps may be required; at least 100 traps are required to properly control rats on a medium-sized farm.

GUILLOTINE TRAP AND BAITS.

For general use the improved modern traps with a wire fall, released by a baited trigger and driven by a coiled spring, have marked advantages over the old forms, and many of them may be used at the same time. These traps, sometimes called "guillotine" traps, are of many designs, but the more simply constructed are preferable, and usually more effective than cage traps.

Remembering that the rat is practically omnivorous, feeding upon all kinds of animal and vegetable matter, baits should be chosen accordingly. Perhaps the most consistent results will be obtained by using baits made from bacon, beef, fish, fresh liver, nut meats, and cheese. Baits should be large, full size of the trigger and secured to it by tying with string or fine wire. The guillotine trap with extended trigger may also be used without bait, upon ledges, narrow rat runs, along the walls, or at the opening of rat burrows. The trigger on all traps should be adjusted to act instantly.

CAGE TRAPS AND BAITS.

When rats are abundant, large French wire cages may be used to advantage. They should be made of stiff wire, well reinforced. Many of those sold are useless because a full-grown rat can bend the wires and escape.

The baits recommended for guillotine traps may be used in the cage trap. A combination of baits cut in large size can be fastened on a wire hook suspended from the top of the cage on the inside. Pre-baiting is often necessary, allowing the traps to remain open for one or two nights before closing. Twenty-five or more rats have been secured during the night from this procedure. Better results will be secured if traps are covered than if left exposed; an old cloth or bag thrown over the top will be sufficient covering.

FENCE AND BATTUE.

This method is applicable at the time of removal of piles of grain, hay, straw, rubbish, and brush. A wire netting or a wooden pen may be used for the inclosure, which should be set up around the pile. The pile of material is then thrown out, allowing dogs and men to get at the rats. Hundreds of rats may be destroyed in this manner in a few hours.

